

Berkshire County Council

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**REPORT**

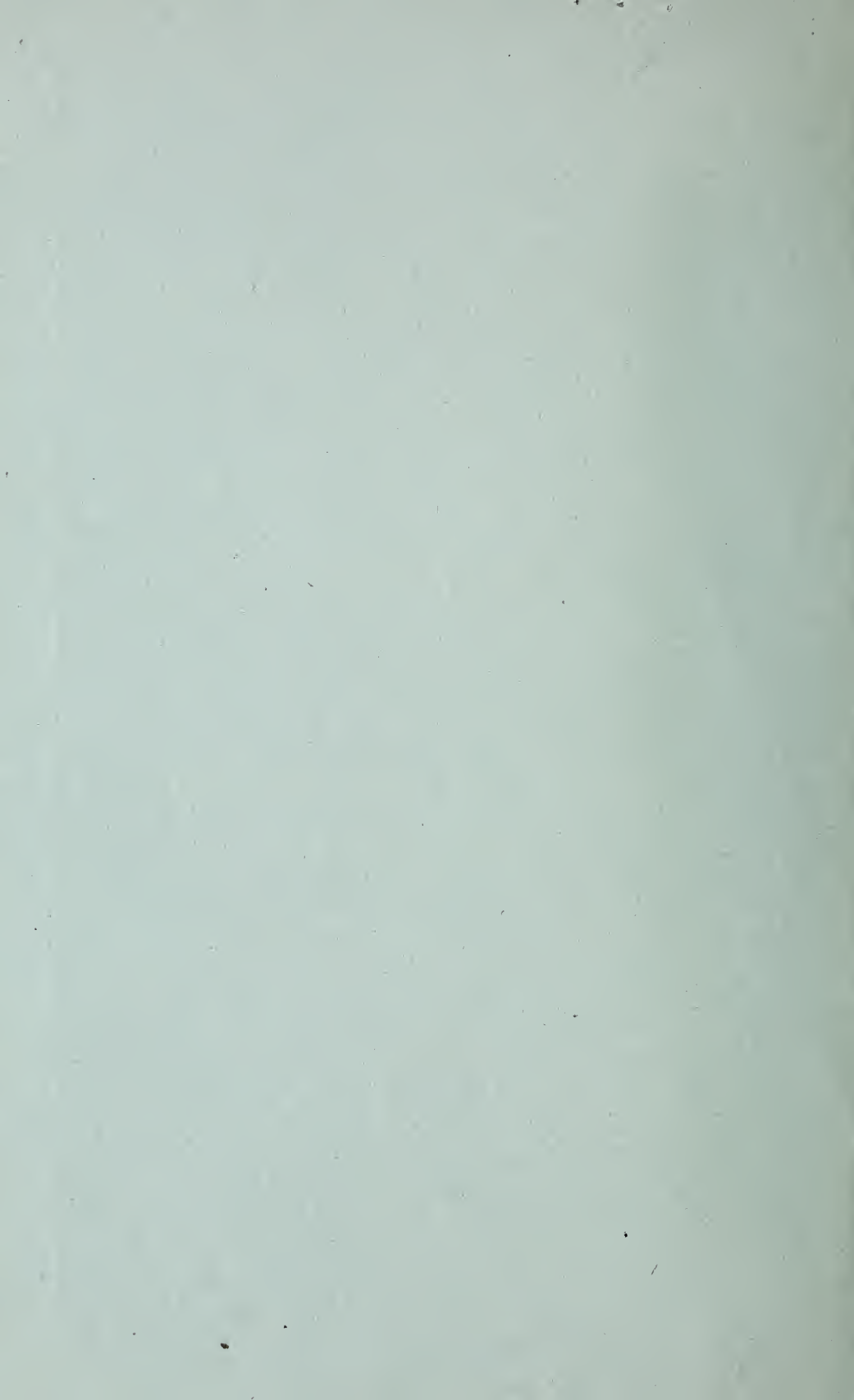
**OF THE**

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF**

**HEALTH**

**FOR THE YEAR**

**1941**



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## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE.

## AREA AND POPULATION.

The area of the administrative county of Berkshire is 454,725 acres.

In accordance with circular 2604 all tabular matter and figures relating to current populations have been omitted.

## BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATES.

During the year, 4,039 live births were registered for the area of the administrative county. Compared with the figure for 1940 an increase of 307 births is shown.

One hundred and twenty-three still births, 49 of which occurred in urban and 74 in rural districts were recorded.

## DEATHS AND DEATH RATE.

During the year, 3,312 deaths were registered, a decrease of 98 as compared with the number recorded in the previous year ; 1,935 of the recorded deaths were in respect of persons over 65 years of age.

The principal registered causes of death are shown in the following table :—

Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	806
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	501
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	...	282
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	378
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	93
Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	...	...	...	95

## CANCER.

The number of deaths from Cancer registered in 1941 is 501, as compared with 420 for the previous year.

## CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS FROM CANCER INTO VARIOUS AGE GROUPS.

Age groups	...	1-15 yrs.	15-45 yrs.	45 to 65 yrs.	65 and upwards.
No. of deaths	...	1	45	195	260

# INFANT MORTALITY.

171 deaths of children under the age of one year were registered during the year. Of this number 103 were certified as being due to congenital debility and premature birth. As compared with the corresponding rates for the period 1931-1940 the infant mortality rate for 1941 shows a decrease.

TABLE I.  
INFANT MORTALITY.  
(Per 1,000 live births).

				Average Rate, 1931-1940.	Rate, 1941.	Number of Deaths, 1941.
URBAN DISTRICTS.						
1	Abingdon Borough	...	...	41.81	14.28	3
2	Maidenhead Borough	...	...	50.23	43.58	17
3	Newbury Borough	...	...	40.48	23.64	7
4	New Windsor Borough	...	...	49.56	35.39	12
5	Wallingford Borough	...	...	26.16	75.47	4
6	Wantage	...	...	51.02	38.96	3
7	Wokingham	...	...	41.75	27.39	4
RURAL DISTRICTS.						
1	Abingdon	...	...	38.68	50.12	20
2	Bradfield	...	...	44.16	51.18	13
3	Cookham	...	...	52.92	20.61	4
4	Easthampstead	...	...	41.03	37.28	11
5	Faringdon	...	...	35.07	21.27	5
6	Hungerford	...	...	42.39	40.26	6
7	Newbury	...	...	33.95	33.17	7
8	Wallingford	...	...	47.26	48.14	13
9	Wantage	...	...	40.70	56.33	12
10	Windsor	...	...	37.00	56.25	9
11	Wokingham	...	...	44.57	43.82	21
Urban Districts				45.89	34.45	50
Rural Districts				42.03	42.31	121
County				43.28	39.27	171

The death rate from Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years), per 1,000 births, is 2.7.

## MATERNAL MORTALITY.

During 1941, 8 maternal deaths, 1 of which was attributed to puerperal sepsis, were registered. The maternal mortality rate of 1·8 per 1,000 births is the lowest recorded for the county in the past ten years.

Table showing the maternal mortality rate for the past 10 years :—

TABLE II.

Year.	Total (Live and Still) Births.	Deaths from		Maternal Mortality per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births.
		Puerperal Sepsis.	Other Diseases and Accidents of Parturition.	
1932	3,266	6	8	4·2
1933	3,173	3	5	2·5
1934	3,183	6	14	6·2
1935	3,266	8	4	3·6
1936	3,242	6	8	4·3
1937	3,307	1	8	2·7
1938	3,239	3	5	2·4
1939	3,487	4	8	3·4
1940	3,856	2	5	2·0
1941	4,438	1	7	1·8

## MIDWIVES ACT, 1936.

The arrangements made by the County Council to fulfil their statutory obligations under the Midwives Act, 1936, still prove adequate to meet the demands made on this particular service.

At the end of the year 198 midwives were practising in the county area. Of these, 119 were engaged in domiciliary midwifery practice and 79 were employed in either general hospitals, public assistance institutions or nursing homes. The Council's scheme provides for the employment of 5 whole-time midwives, 3 of whom have been allocated to special districts and 2 to undertake duties in any area in which a midwife is required for holiday duty, illness, etc.

Of the total number of midwives practising in the county area, 102 were employed by district nursing associations. There were 67 such associations undertaking midwifery in the area of the administrative county. Of this number, 57 were affiliated to the Berkshire County Nursing Association, 5 were independent of that body and 5, although undertaking midwifery in Berkshire, are located in adjoining areas.



Table showing the number of cases attended by midwives in the area of the Local Supervising Authority during the year :—

	Domiciliary cases.	Cases at Institutions.	Totals.
1. Employed by the Council—			
As midwives ... ..	207	567	774
As maternity nurses ... ..	12	30	42
2. Normally employed by other Local Supervising Authorities, but temporarily working in the area—			
As midwives ... ..	—	996	996
As maternity nurses ... ..	—	—	—
3. Employed by Voluntary Associations—			
(a) Under arrangement with Local Supervising Authority in pursuance of Section 1 of the Midwives Act—			
As midwives ... ..	1,651	—	1,651
As maternity nurses ... ..	502	—	502
(b) Others—			
As midwives ... ..	7	307	314
As maternity nurses ... ..	1	181	182
4. In private practice—			
As midwives ... ..	130	118	248
As maternity nurses ... ..	46	199	245
Totals—			
As midwives ... ..	1,995	1,988	3,983
As maternity nurses ... ..	561	410	971

Compared with the figure for 1940, there is a considerable increase in the number of cases attended by midwives during the year.

Table classifying notifications received, under the Rules of the Central Midwives Board, by the Local Supervising Authority :—

Sending for medical aid ... ..	1,140
Stillbirth ... ..	47
Laying out a dead body ... ..	41
Artificial feeding ... ..	69
Contact with infection ... ..	58
Death of infant ... ..	19
Death of mother ... ..	2

The number of cases in which medical aid was sought by midwives again shows the progressive increase noted in previous years.

#### INSPECTION OF MIDWIVES.

The non-medical supervisors of midwives visited all midwives periodically and submitted reports on the results of their investigations to the County Medical Officer. They also visited and submitted reports on all cases of either puerperal fever or ophthalmia neonatorum.

#### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

##### ANTE NATAL SERVICE.

The importance of efficient ante natal supervision for patients is repeatedly brought to the notice of midwives and it is satisfactory to note that increased use has been made during the past year of the County Council's scheme. During the year, 1,639 patients were examined under the provisions of this scheme—a considerable increase as compared with the number recorded for the preceding year. During 1941, 13,992 visits were made to expectant mothers and records compiled in respect of each case.



Ante natal clinics were held at Ascot, Childrey, Cookham, Didcot, Finchampstead, Sunninghill, Wantage and Wokingham. In view of the arrangements previously described the attendances at these clinics were small, only 48 patients attended during the year.

Ante natal clinics were held at the following hospitals :—

The Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.  
The Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading.  
King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor.

#### POST NATAL EXAMINATION.

All midwives are urged to instruct their patients in regard to the importance and advantages of a medical examination towards the end of the lying-in period. 712 patients were examined during 1941, a slightly lower figure than that recorded for the previous year.

#### PROVISION FOR THE SERVICES OF A CONSULTANT.

The services of a consultant, free of cost to the patient, are available to any medical practitioner who may desire assistance in respect of a domiciliary maternity case either during pregnancy, at the time of confinement or during the puerperium.

During 1941, 46 such consultations were held, compared with 21 for the previous year. A circular containing the names of the consultants who had consented to act under the provisions of this scheme has been sent to all doctors practising in the area of the administrative county.

#### MATERNITY HOSPITALS.

Arrangements have been made whereby all patients suffering from those complications of pregnancy which require treatment in a maternity department of a general hospital, can be admitted to one or other of the following institutions :—

The Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.  
The Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading.  
Swindon Borough Maternity Home, Swindon.  
King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor.

Table showing the number of patients admitted to these hospitals during the past five years :—

HOSPITAL.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.
Radcliffe Infirmary ... ..	29	33	57	56	47
Royal Berkshire Hospital ... ..	45	59	72	97	116
King Edward VII Hospital ... ..	5	2	17	16	17
Swindon Borough Maternity Home	—	1	—	5	4
	<hr/> 79	<hr/> 95	<hr/> 146	<hr/> 174	<hr/> 184

Six hundred and twenty-six cases of uncomplicated pregnancy in which it was considered that either the home or financial circumstances were such that adequate care and attention was unlikely to be otherwise secured, were admitted to the maternity wards of the County Council Emergency Hospitals at Maidenhead, Newbury, Wallingford, Wantage, Wokingham or Old Windsor.

### PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

During the year 36 patients suffering from puerperal pyrexia, 14 of whom were admitted to hospital, were notified. One death occurred. Special investigations were made in all cases and instructions regarding adequate preventive measures given.

### OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Seventeen cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified, three of which necessitated hospital treatment. All the cases were visited and from reports submitted, it is found that sixteen of the infants suffered no impairment of vision as the result of the disease, and that the remaining patient died.

### SUPPLY OF EXTRA NOURISHMENT.

Dried milk, cod liver oil, etc., is supplied either free of charge or at cost price to mothers and children at many of the welfare centres in the county area. 14,244 lbs. of dried milk were supplied during 1941 from these centres.

### DENTAL TREATMENT.

Forty applications for dental treatment received approval during the year and all necessary arrangements were made for the work to be undertaken by private dental practitioners.

### STERILISED MATERNITY OUTFITS.

During the year 23 sterilised maternity outfits were supplied, free of cost, to patients whose home circumstances were such that the provision of an outfit was desirable.

### INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

All Infant Welfare Centres situated in the county area are managed by local voluntary committees who arrange for the periodical attendance of a medical practitioner at the centres. Either a county health visitor or a district nurse is in attendance each time a centre is open. At certain clinics, special sessions are held for toddlers.

During the year, 1,560 children attended for the first time at the 31 welfare centres situated in the county area. This is an increase as compared with the previous year's figures.

### HEALTH VISITING.

Domiciliary visits, to children under 5 years of age, are made at frequent intervals and health records compiled in respect of each child. During the year, 21,524 visits were made to children under the age of 1 year and 30,551 to children between the ages of 1 and 5 years. These figures show a considerable increase compared with those of the preceding year.

### TREATMENT OF CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 5 YEARS.

Children under the age of 5 years suffering from either dental or visual defects are referred for treatment to one or other of the clinics of the Berkshire Education Authority. During the year 12 children with visual defects and 57 with dental disease were treated. Six children suffering from crippling diseases received treatment at the Wingfield-Morris Orthopaedic Hospital, Headington.

## CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

At December 31st, 1941, there were 88 persons undertaking for reward the maintenance and care of 135 children under the age of nine years apart from their parents or having no parents. All such boarded-out children are visited at regular intervals by the Child Life Protection Visitors who are members of either the whole-time county health visiting or school nursing staff. The standard of care and attention given to boarded-out children by foster parents is satisfactory.

## NURSING AND MATERNITY HOMES.

At December 31st, 1941, there were 39 registered nursing homes in the area of the administrative county. Of this number 13 undertook general medical and surgical work, 7 admitted maternity cases only, and the remainder provided for the nursing of either convalescent or senile patients.

## NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.

During the year 3,002 notifications of births occurring in the area of the administrative county—2,380 notified by midwives and 622 by either medical practitioners or parents—were received. Records of all notifications of birth are forwarded to the appropriate health visitor in order that home visitation may be arranged. The figures for the previous year are as follows :—Number notified, 2,706 (2,147 by midwives and 559 by either medical practitioners or parents).

## VACCINATION.

The vaccination officer reports that 1,970 certificates of successful primary vaccination and 1,631 declarations of conscientious objection to vaccination were received during the year. The corresponding figures for the previous year are 1,273 and 1,471 respectively.

## GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

The full services of the County Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme have been extended to all expectant and nursing mothers and children under 5 years of age who have been evacuated to various parts of the administrative county. The following Maternity Homes and Hostels have also been opened under the instructions of the Ministry of Health.

### MATERNITY HOMES.

Folly Farm, Sulhamstead.

Frilford St. Peter, Frilford Heath.

Oakley House, Frilford Heath.

"Rashleighs," Maidenhead.

Upton Lodge, Upton.

### ANTE-NATAL HOSTELS.

Brooklands, Abingdon.

Fieldside, Blewbury.

White Lodge, Maidenhead.

### POST-NATAL HOSTEL.

"Eboracum," Wokingham.

The following statistics, compiled up to and including June 30th, 1942, refer to patients evacuated under the above Scheme.

Number of expectant mothers confined in emergency maternity homes	1,885
Number of expectant mothers confined in the maternity wards of the County Council Emergency Hospitals	402
Number of expectant mothers confined in private nursing homes	201
Number of expectant mothers confined in billets	538

Twenty-one evacuated expectant mothers applied for dental treatment, under the County Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme, of which 15 were approved and have received the necessary treatment.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 1941, primary notifications under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1912, were received for 236 Pulmonary and 90 Non-pulmonary cases, making a total of 326 for all forms of tuberculosis.

This is a decrease compared with the previous year, but is a considerable increase compared with pre-war years.

TABLE III.  
ANNUAL NUMBER OF NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED SINCE 1932.

	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total.
1932	172	68	240
1933	183	46	229
1934	153	43	196
1935	198	47	245
1936	196	49	245
1937	163	35	198
1938	145	55	200
1939	176	67	243
1940	246	86	332
1941	236	90	326

MORTALITY.—The number of certified deaths from all forms of tuberculosis was 134. Of these 93 were due to pulmonary and 41 to non-pulmonary tuberculosis.



TABLE IV.

ALL NEW CASES AND ALL DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS  
CLASSIFIED INTO THE VARIOUS AGE GROUPS FOR THE YEAR  
1941.

Age Periods.	All New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	...	1	1	...	...	...	2	...
1 — 5	2	...	11	5	1	...	5	3
5 — 15	4	9	16	16	1	...	4	4
15 — 45	91	88	16	25	27	30	7	8
45 — 65	34	18	6	6	20	6	5	2
65 and up- wards	2	...	...	...	4	4	...	1
Totals ...	133	116	50	52	53	40	23	18

#### INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT.

Treatment was provided by the County Council in the following institutions :—

Berks and Bucks Joint Sanatorium, Peppard Common.

Number of adult cases admitted	...	...	...	...	98
„ „ „ „ discharged	...	...	...	...	93
„ „ children admitted	...	...	...	...	13
„ „ „ „ discharged	...	...	...	...	10

Abingdon Sanatorium.

Number admitted	...	...	...	...	49
„ discharged	...	...	...	...	47

#### SURGICAL CASES.

Wingfield-Morris Orthopaedic Hospital and Cold Ash Children's Hospital. Eleven cases of tuberculosis disease of bones and joints were admitted and 13 were discharged. One case was also admitted to Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital, Alton.

Six pulmonary cases were admitted to either Harefield Sanatorium or Prior Place, Camberley, for major surgical treatment.

Nine pulmonary cases were admitted to sanatoria not provided by the Berkshire Authority.

Twenty-eight non-pulmonary cases were treated at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, and 5 others at either Papworth Hall, Cambridgeshire, or the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

#### TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARIES.

During the year, 689 new cases and 103 contacts were examined. Of this number, 314 were considered to be tuberculous and 358 not tuberculous. The total attendances at the dispensaries was 2,495.

The Tuberculosis Officer had 53 personal and 1,526 other consultations with medical practitioners. 2,167 home visits were made by the Tuberculosis Officer and 3,549 visits by Health Visitors and District Nurses. The number of radiological examinations was 651.

### COLLAPSE THERAPY.

The number of patients receiving artificial pneumo-thorax refills, which was given by the Tuberculosis Officer at their homes, has greatly increased. The number of refills given was 1,573.

### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

572 specimens of sputum were examined and tubercle bacilli were found in 67 of these specimens.

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

### DIPHTHERIA.

The number of cases of diphtheria notified during the year was 146, as compared with 214 in the previous year. The district in which the disease was most prevalent (71 cases) was Maidenhead Borough. The number of cases removed to isolation hospitals was 140. Five deaths were reported as being due to this disease.

### SCARLET FEVER.

Four hundred and sixty-eight cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year, an increase of 108 compared with the previous year's figure. The districts in which the disease was most prevalent were Bradfield Rural District (70 cases), Easthampstead Rural District (53 cases) and Wokingham Rural District (52 cases). Three hundred and thirty-five cases were removed to isolation hospitals. No deaths occurred from the disease.

### TYPHOID AND PARATYPHOID FEVER.

Two cases of typhoid fever were notified, one of which occurred in Newbury Rural District and the other in Wallingford Rural District. Both cases were removed to hospital.

Eleven cases of paratyphoid fever were notified, one of which occurred in Maidenhead Borough and ten in Wallingford Rural District. All the Rural District cases were removed to hospital. Two deaths were reported from these diseases.

### CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

Seventy cases were notified and 18 deaths from this disease were reported.

### POLIOMYELITIS.

The number of cases notified was 56, of which 30 were removed to hospital.

### OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Measles and whooping cough proved to be the most prevalent of notifiable diseases during the year, 5,152 cases of measles and 1,689 cases of whooping cough being reported. Nine deaths from measles and 12 from whooping cough were registered.

## HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

<i>Hospital.</i>	<i>No. of Beds.</i>
Abingdon Isolation Hospital ... ..	50
Maidenhead Isolation Hospital ... ..	54
Newbury Isolation Hospital ... ..	22 (including 6 cots).
Wallingford Isolation Hospital ... ..	34

### SMALLPOX.

The County Council have made arrangements enabling any case of smallpox occurring in the county area to be admitted to the Reading County Borough Smallpox Hospital, Manor Farm, Reading.

TABLE V.  
NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE, 1941.

DISEASES NOTIFIED.	Cases notified in Urban Districts.								Cases notified in Rural Districts.												
	Abingdon Borough.	Maidenhead Borough.	Newbury Borough.	New Windsor Borough.	Wallingford Borough.	Wantage Borough.	Wokingham Borough.	Total Urban Districts.	Abingdon.	Bradfield.	Cookham.	Easthampstead.	Faringdon.	Hungerford.	Newbury.	Wallingford.	Wantage.	Windsor.	Wokingham.	Total Rural Districts.	Total County.
1 Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2 Diphtheria and Membranous Group	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3 Erysipelas...	3	5	...	2	...	...	5	16	12	8	4	5	1	2	...	14	1	...	2	50	66
4 Scarlet Fever	8	40	20	47	1	10	7	133	38	70	48	53	7	15	16	4	17	15	52	335	468
5 Typhoid ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2	...
6 Paratyphoid	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	10	11
7 Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	6	7	1	2	2	27	9	6	...	1	2	3	2	2	2	1	...	28	55
8 Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	3	4	...	13	2	1	2	25	11	4	1	2	9	...	5	3	4	1	5	45	70
9 Poliomyelitis	1	22	1	14	...	...	...	38	1	2	7	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	18	56
10 Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
11 Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	3	3	2	...	1	1	...	3	4	...	1	1	16	19
12 Pneumonia	4	7	7	11	8	...	5	42	22	40	9	17	6	8	15	17	3	8	29	174	216
13 Dysentery...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	8	...	5	...	1	...	...	...	14	17
14 Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6	31	16	23	1	2	8	87	22	14	11	15	7	4	12	14	9	8	32	148	235
15 Tuberculosis other than Pulmonary	6	4	8	5	...	2	3	25	15	9	2	4	5	2	10	6	3	1	17	74	99
16 Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
17 Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18 Continued Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19 Pemphigus Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20 Measles ... ..	34	164	237	261	101	216	112	1125	388	527	122	517	364	239	364	104	322	399	681	4027	5152
21 Whooping Cough...	96	46	70	71	30	36	18	367	251	152	116	124	39	96	83	53	151	41	216	1322	1689
Totals	167	399	367	455	144	272	170	1974	791	840	334	757	424	374	517	236	517	482	1047	6329	8303



TABLE VI.—TABLE OF NOTIFICATIONS AND REMOVALS TO HOSPITAL.

The number of Cases treated in Hospital is in each instance inserted in brackets.

	Smallpox.			Scarlet Fever.			Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.			Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever.			Totals.		
	1939	1940	1941	1939	1940	1941	1939	1940	1941	1939	1940	1941	1939	1940	1941
<b>URBAN DISTRICTS.</b>															
1 Abingdon Borough ...	...	...	...	13 (13)	26 (26)	8 (8)	...	3 (3)	3 (3)	1 (1)	...	...	14 (14)	29 (29)	11 (11)
2 Maidenhead Borough ...	...	...	...	20 (18)	39 (36)	40 (35)	51 (51)	32 (30)	70 (64)	2 (2)	5 (1)	1	73 (71)	76 (67)	111 (99)
3 Newbury Borough ...	...	...	...	32 (19)	11 (5)	22 (12)	...	3 (3)	3 (3)	...	...	...	32 (19)	14 (8)	25 (15)
4 New Windsor Borough ...	...	...	...	19 (15)	28 (22)	51 (39)	26 (26)	13 (6)	...	...	1 (1)	...	45 (41)	42 (29)	51 (39)
5 Wallingford Borough ...	...	...	...	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	2 (2)	...	...	...	...	2 (2)	3 (3)	1 (1)
6 Wantage ...	...	...	...	14 (7)	26 (22)	10 (8)	...	...	2 (1)	...	...	...	14 (7)	26 (22)	12 (9)
7 Wokingham Borough ...	...	...	...	2 (1)	20 (14)	6 (4)	27 (26)	15 (10)	6 (6)	...	...	...	29 (27)	35 (24)	12 (10)
Totals ...	...	...	...	101 (74)	151 (126)	138 (107)	105 (104)	68 (54)	84 (77)	3 (3)	6 (2)	1	209 (181)	225 (182)	223 (184)
<b>RURAL DISTRICTS.</b>															
1 Abingdon ...	...	...	...	34 (32)	34 (31)	38 (34)	7 (7)	5 (5)	9 (9)	...	1 (1)	...	41 (39)	40 (37)	47 (43)
2 Bradfield ...	...	...	...	9 (6)	13 (7)	72 (34)	2 (2)	3 (3)	5 (4)	...	...	...	11 (8)	16 (10)	77 (38)
3 Cookham ...	...	...	...	12 (9)	10 (7)	48 (38)	5 (5)	19 (21)	13 (13)	...	...	...	17 (14)	29 (28)	61 (51)
4 Easthampstead ...	...	...	...	13 (10)	26 (22)	53 (33)	15 (14)	22 (22)	7 (7)	...	...	...	28 (24)	48 (44)	60 (40)
5 Faringdon ...	...	...	...	12 (4)	18 (6)	7 (3)	13 (13)	2 (1)	3 (3)	...	...	...	25 (17)	20 (7)	10 (6)
6 Hungerford ...	...	...	...	12 (3)	10 (4)	16 (8)	...	1 (1)	...	...	...	...	12 (3)	11 (5)	16 (8)
7 Newbury ...	...	...	...	21 (9)	18 (1)	16 (11)	2 (1)	2 (2)	5 (4)	...	...	1 (1)	23 (10)	20 (3)	22 (16)
8 Wallingford ...	...	...	...	2	13 (7)	4 (4)	26 (17)	31 (31)	3 (3)	...	1 (1)	11 (11)	28 (17)	45 (39)	18 (18)
9 Wantage ...	...	...	...	23 (6)	10 (6)	17 (11)	2 (1)	2 (2)	4 (4)	...	...	...	25 (7)	12 (8)	21 (15)
10 Windsor ...	...	...	...	7 (3)	11 (6)	18 (17)	2 (2)	1 (1)	6 (5)	...	...	...	9 (5)	12 (7)	24 (22)
11 Wokingham ...	...	...	...	52 (39)	46 (36)	55 (35)	38 (27)	58 (34)	11 (11)	...	...	...	90 (66)	104 (70)	66 (46)
Totals ...	...	...	...	197 (121)	209 (133)	344 (228)	112 (89)	146 (123)	66 (63)	...	2 (2)	12 (12)	309 (210)	357 (258)	422 (303)

TABLE VII.

EPIDEMIC MORTALITY DURING TEN YEARS, 1931-1940.

	TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS.							
	Principal Epidemic Diseases.	Small- pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Whoop- ing Cough.	Enteric Fever.	Diarr- hoea.
URBAN DISTRICTS.								
1 Abingdon Borough ...	10	...	4	...	4	...	1	1
2 Maidenhead Borough	30	...	5	2	11	3	...	9
3 Newbury Borough ...	23	...	5	...	6	2	1	9
4 New Windsor Borough	28	...	6	...	7	7	...	8
5 Wallingford Borough	5	...	...	...	3	...	...	2
6 Wantage ... ..	3	...	2	...	...	...	...	1
7 Wokingham Borough	9	...	1	2	4	1	...	1
RURAL DISTRICTS.								
1 Abingdon ... ..	18	...	3	...	2	6	...	7
2 Bradfield ... ..	11	...	1	1	3	2	...	4
3 Cookham ... ..	15	...	1	1	4	4	1	4
4 Easthampstead ...	13	...	2	1	3	5	...	2
5 Faringdon ... ..	15	...	1	3	2	4	...	5
6 Hungerford ... ..	4	...	...	...	2	...	...	2
7 Newbury ... ..	13	...	...	2	6	2	...	3
8 Wallingford ... ..	14	...	1	1	4	2	...	6
9 Wantage ... ..	16	...	3	4	1	3	...	5
10 Windsor ... ..	5	...	1	1	...	...	2	1
11 Wokingham ... ..	35	...	6	1	8	10	6	4
Urban Districts ...	108	...	23	4	35	13	2	31
Rural Districts ...	159	...	19	15	35	38	9	43
County ... ..	267	...	42	19	70	51	11	74

TABLE VIII.—CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH, 1941.

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF BERKS.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Net Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents," whether occurring within or without the County.						
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ... ..	2	...	...	1	1	...	...
Cerebro-spinal fever ... ..	18	2	5	4	4	3	...
Scarlet fever... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping cough ... ..	12	6	5	1	...	...	...
Diphtheria ... ..	5	...	1	3	...	1	...
Tuberculosis of respiratory System ... ..	93	...	1	1	57	26	8
Other forms of tuberculosis	41	2	8	8	15	7	1
Syphilitic diseases ... ..	20	1	...	5	3	7	4
Influenza ... ..	59	1	...	...	5	18	35
Measles ... ..	9	1	5	3	...	...	...
Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis ... ..	7	...	1	4	2	...	...
Acute infantile encephalitis	3	...	...	...	1	2	...
Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M) uterus (F)	67	...	...	...	4	36	27
Cancer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	69	...	...	...	5	21	43
Cancer of breast ... ..	54	...	...	...	9	32	13
Cancer of all other sites ... ..	311	...	1	...	27	106	177
Diabetes ... ..	29	...	...	...	2	6	21
Intra cranial vascular lesions	282	...	...	...	3	72	207
Heart disease ... ..	806	...	...	1	22	161	622
Other diseases of circulatory system ... ..	95	...	...	...	1	14	80
Bronchitis ... ..	223	10	5	1	3	32	172
Pneumonia ... ..	155	19	5	3	20	46	62
Other respiratory diseases	43	1	...	4	5	13	20
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ... ..	34	...	...	...	1	15	18
Diarrhoea under two years	11	10	1	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis ... ..	7	...	...	...	3	1	3
Other digestive diseases ... ..	102	2	2	1	14	25	58
Nephritis ... ..	64	...	1	1	7	19	36
Puerperal and post abortion sepsis ... ..	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Other maternal causes ... ..	7	...	...	...	7	...	...
Premature birth ... ..	41	41	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital malformation birth injuries, infantile diseases	62	55	3	4	...	...	...
Suicide ... ..	18	...	...	...	6	8	4
Road traffic accidents ... ..	61	...	5	6	20	15	15
Other violent causes ... ..	108	8	5	7	39	14	35
All other causes ... ..	393	12	7	6	32	62	274
All causes ... ..	3,312	171	61	64	319	762	1,935

TABLE IX.—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH, 1941.

## URBAN DISTRICTS.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Deaths belonging to all Urban Districts.							Deaths belonging to each District (at all ages)						
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and up-wards.	Abingdon Borough.	Maidenhead Borough.	Newbury Borough.	New Windsor Borough.	Wallingford Borough.	Wantage.	Wokingham Borough.
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal fever ...	6	...	1	1	1	3	...	1	4	...	...	...	1	...
Scarlet fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping cough ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Diphtheria ...	3	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	39	...	...	...	22	13	4	5	10	4	10	...	2	8
Other forms of tuberculosis ...	13	1	3	3	3	2	1	2	...	4	6	...	...	1
Syphilitic diseases ...	7	...	...	2	1	3	1	...	3	2	1	...	1	...
Influenza ...	18	...	...	...	2	7	9	1	6	2	2	...	...	7
Measles ...	4	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...
Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis ...	4	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	1	...	3	...	...	...
Acute infantile encephalitis ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
uterus (F) ...	24	...	...	...	...	14	10	3	6	7	6	1	...	1
Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...	25	...	...	...	1	9	15	2	8	5	5	...	4	1
Cancer of breast ...	21	...	...	...	1	15	5	1	7	6	5	...	...	2
Cancer of all other sites ...	115	...	...	...	10	37	68	10	32	28	31	3	1	10
Diabetes ...	12	...	...	...	1	5	6	2	3	2	3	...	...	2
Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	129	...	...	...	1	34	94	11	30	30	33	4	6	15
Heart disease ...	276	...	...	...	10	55	211	14	104	43	55	11	14	35
Other diseases of circulatory system ...	44	...	...	...	...	8	36	2	14	12	6	1	2	7
Bronchitis ...	70	2	...	...	1	12	55	9	14	10	23	1	6	7
Pneumonia ...	62	9	4	1	13	15	20	4	21	12	16	2	4	3
Other respiratory diseases ...	21	1	...	2	1	7	10	2	8	2	3	1	2	3
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	12	...	...	...	...	5	7	...	2	3	2	1	2	2
Diarrhoea under two years ...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Appendicitis ...	5	...	...	...	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	...	1	...
Other digestive diseases ...	28	1	1	1	1	6	18	2	10	4	8	1	...	3
Nephritis ...	22	...	1	...	4	6	11	5	7	1	4	...	...	5
Puerperal and post abortion sepsis ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Other maternal causes ...	4	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	1
Premature birth ...	10	10	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	3	1	2	...	...
Congenital malformation, birth injuries, infantile diseases ...	20	16	1	3	...	...	...	1	9	3	4	2	...	1
Suicide ...	7	...	...	...	1	3	3	...	1	3	1	...	1	1
Road traffic accidents ...	18	...	2	...	8	5	3	1	9	...	3	2	2	1
Other violent causes ...	43	4	1	1	16	6	15	7	15	4	9	1	3	4
All other causes ...	160	3	4	1	12	29	111	27	33	32	28	8	11	21
All causes ...	1227	50	22	21	120	300	714	114	367	227	272	41	64	142





TABLE X.—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH, 1941.

## RURAL DISTRICTS.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Deaths belonging to all Rural Districts.							Deaths belonging to each District (at all ages).										
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and up-wards.	Abingdon	Bradfield	Cookham	Easthampstead	Faringdon	Hungerford	Newbury	Wallingford	Wantage	Windsor	Wokingham
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal fever ...	12	2	4	3	3	...	...	4	...	2	3	...	...	1	...	1	...	1
Scarlet fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping cough ...	11	6	4	1	...	...	...	2	2	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	3
Diphtheria ...	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	54	...	1	1	35	13	4	8	4	4	8	4	2	6	2	3	3	10
Other forms of tuberculosis ...	28	1	5	5	12	5	...	3	2	2	6	1	1	4	2	1	2	4
Syphilitic diseases ...	13	1	...	3	2	4	3	1	1	...	...	...	2	2	2	1	...	4
Influenza ...	41	1	...	...	3	11	26	2	2	1	8	1	3	1	6	1	7	9
Measles ...	5	...	3	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	1
Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis ...	3	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Acute infantile encephalitis ...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M)																		
uterus (F) ...	43	...	...	...	4	22	17	3	3	3	6	4	...	5	4	1	5	9
Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...	44	...	...	...	4	12	28	3	1	7	2	4	3	7	7	2	...	8
Cancer of breast ...	33	...	...	...	8	17	8	3	4	4	4	2	2	1	3	3	1	6
Cancer of all other sites ...	196	...	1	...	17	69	109	11	17	12	36	9	9	20	13	19	18	32
Diabetes ...	17	...	...	...	1	1	15	...	2	1	3	...	3	...	3	1	3	1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	153	...	...	...	2	38	113	13	13	15	21	11	8	10	3	15	11	33
Heart disease ...	530	...	...	1	12	106	411	35	58	39	70	41	32	48	35	30	40	102
Other diseases of circulatory system ...	51	...	...	...	1	6	44	3	18	3	7	1	1	3	4	2	5	4
Bronchitis ...	153	8	5	1	2	20	117	10	14	6	15	16	17	10	7	20	12	26
Pneumonia ...	93	10	1	2	7	31	42	5	9	7	4	5	8	12	13	6	8	16
Other respiratory diseases ...	22	...	...	2	4	6	10	2	1	2	2	1	2	3	2	1	2	4
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	22	...	...	...	1	10	11	4	...	1	3	2	2	3	1	1	2	3
Diarrhoea under two years ...	9	8	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	...	2
Appendicitis ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Other digestive diseases ...	74	1	1	...	13	19	40	6	6	5	9	5	8	5	3	6	3	18
Nephritis ...	42	...	...	1	3	13	25	2	6	7	4	4	2	3	3	2	3	6
Puerperal and post abortion sepsis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other maternal causes ...	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...
Premature birth ...	31	31	...	...	...	...	...	8	1	1	4	...	1	1	3	4	2	6
Congenital malformation, birth injuries, infantile diseases ...	42	39	2	1	...	...	...	4	6	...	7	3	2	2	1	6	4	7
Suicide ...	11	...	...	...	5	5	1	4	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	2	...	2
Road traffic accidents ...	43	...	3	6	12	10	12	3	5	4	3	5	...	8	1	5	1	8
Other violent causes ...	65	4	4	6	23	8	20	9	6	8	7	2	2	7	9	3	3	9
All other causes ...	233	9	3	5	20	33	163	26	28	4	41	8	19	24	16	17	12	38
All causes ...	2085	121	39	43	199	462	1221	174	216	143	275	132	130	190	148	154	150	373





## VENEREAL DISEASE.

The County Council have made arrangements for the treatment of persons suffering from venereal diseases at clinics held at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, and the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading.

Patients are seen at the following times :—

### THE RADCLIFFE INFIRMARY, OXFORD.

Men—Wednesday, 6 p.m. Saturday, 3 p.m.  
Women—Monday, 6 p.m. Wednesday, 3 p.m.

### THE ROYAL BERKSHIRE HOSPITAL, READING.

Men—Wednesday, 2 p.m. Saturday, 5 p.m.  
Women—Wednesday, 5 p.m. Saturday, 3 p.m.

The following particulars have been supplied by the medical officer in charge of the clinics.

At the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, 188 cases were seen for the first time during the year. Of this number, 37 were suffering from syphilis, 75 from gonorrhoea and 76 were not suffering from venereal disease.

Of the 18 cases seen for the first time at the Radcliffe Infirmary, 6 were suffering from syphilis, 4 from gonorrhoea and 8 were not suffering from venereal disease.

The total number of attendances made by patients at the clinics was 2,062. Of this number 1,683 attendances were made at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, and 379 at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

In some instances, in-patient treatment was necessary and the number of in-patient days of patients so treated amounted to 783.

Travelling expenses amounting to £108 19s. 2d. were paid to necessitous cases.

## PATHOLOGICAL SPECIMENS.

Examination of materials submitted by medical practitioners from patients suspected to be suffering from venereal disease is made in the pathological laboratories of the following hospitals :—

St. Thomas' Hospital, London.  
The Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.  
The Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading.

## MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913-1938.

### INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT.

At the end of the year 278 mentally defective persons were receiving institutional treatment. Of this number 52 were being maintained in institutions situated outside the County of Berkshire, and 99 females and 127 males were in-patients at the County Council's approved institutions for mental defectives at Bradfield and Easthampstead. In addition, there were 3 patients who had been placed under Statutory Guardianship. During the year, inspections were made at regular intervals at both institutions by the members of the Mental Deficiency Act Committee as well as by the Board of Control's inspectors. From the reports subsequently received it would appear that the patients are being adequately cared for and that the facilities provided for the training of the defectives are satisfactory.

In 1941, 18 defective patients were admitted to institutions, 9 were released on licence and 18 died.

#### STATUTORY SUPERVISION.

There were 104 defectives under statutory supervision during the year. All cases were visited quarterly by the County Health Visitors, who submitted reports to the County Medical Officer.

#### VOLUNTARY SUPERVISION.

At the end of the year there were 114 patients under voluntary supervision. All were seen at regular intervals by the county health visitors who submitted reports to the County Medical Officer.

#### BLIND PERSONS ACT, 1920.

The report of the Berkshire County Blind Society showed that there were 322 persons on their register on 31st March, 1942, compared with 317 the previous year. During the year, 35 new cases were registered.

The total number of cases referred to the certifying ophthalmic surgeons was 39 and, of these, 5 were certified as not being blind within the meaning of the Blind Persons Act, 1920. Twenty-four of those certified as blind were over 60 years of age.

During the year, 1 person who had previously been certified as blind was removed from the register as the sight had improved so much that the case no longer came under the definition of a blind person. Twenty-two blind persons died and 7 left the county to reside in other areas.

Home teachers continued their domiciliary visits to blind persons.

At the end of the year there were 15 blind home workers in the county.

During the year 119 Berkshire residents and 23 evacuees had, or were, receiving domiciliary assistance.

#### PUBLIC ASSISTANCE INSTITUTIONS.

At the request of the Ministry of Health, arrangements were made for increasing the number of beds by crowding and using other rooms at the institutions. Certain alterations and additions of sanitary arrangements were necessary. Finally, increased accommodation was made as follows :—

Newbury	...	...	Increase of 72 beds.
Wallingford	...	...	64 "
Maidenhead	...	...	46 "
Wokingham	...	...	54 "
Windsor	...	...	51 "
Wantage	...	...	28 "

At all these institutions there is a shortage of nurses' accommodation and efforts will be made to employ the extra nurses required from the local nursing organisations. All the institutions, with the exception of Windsor, are classified as Grade 2 hospitals, *i.e.* for convalescent patients. Windsor Institution has been made a Grade 1A hospital and huts to accommodate 260 patients have been erected.

## MILK SUPPLY.

At the end of the year there were 1,200 registered cowkeepers in the county, a considerable increase compared with the figure for the previous year. The number of persons licensed during the year for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk was 125 and for Accredited Milk 282.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Section 25 empowers local authorities to take samples of milk consigned to their district from outside areas. If, on examination, any sample is found to contain tubercle bacilli, notice to this effect is sent to the medical officer of health of the area in which the milk was produced. During the year notices were received from the following authorities :—

Local Authority.	Number of samples containing tubercle bacilli.
East Berks United Sanitary Districts ...	1
London County Council ... ..	6
Middlesex County Council ... ..	3

The milk from which these samples were taken was stated to have been produced in the following districts in this county :—

	Number of samples.
Easthampstead Rural ... ..	1
Faringdon Rural ... ..	1
Hungerford Rural ... ..	1
Newbury Rural ... ..	1
Wantage Rural ... ..	4
Wokingham Rural ... ..	2

On receipt of such notices, information is forwarded to the Divisional Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries who arranges any necessary investigations. The number of cows found to be suffering from tuberculosis as a result of these investigations was 8.

The County Agricultural Instruction Department takes samples of milk for bacteriological examination at regular intervals and undertakes a large amount of advisory work in connection with clean milk production.

Reports are also submitted to the Milk and Dairies Committee on the sanitary circumstances of premises where milk is produced.

The following table shows the number of visits made by the Agricultural Organiser's staff during 1941 :—

(a) Previous to granting a licence for the production of a graded milk ... ..	115
(b) After the granting of a licence for the production of a graded milk ... ..	157
Number of milk samples taken for bacteriological examination ... ..	3,377
Number of samples submitted for investigation work (where trouble had to be traced) ... ..	119
Visits of advice apart from above ... ..	419

A. RICHMOND,

*County Medical Officer and  
Chief Tuberculosis Officer.*

11 ABBOT'S WALK,  
READING.  
21 December, 1942.

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